



# **BMDS PEIS**

## **Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives**

### ***Background***

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) establishes a broad national framework for protecting the environment. NEPA requires Federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate the impacts to the human and natural environment of developing, testing, deploying and planning for decommissioning activities for the Ballistic Missile Defense System (BMDS). The MDA is the successor agency to the Ballistic Missile Defense Organization that prepared a PEIS in 1994. That PEIS did not fully address air- or sea-based systems, or new applications of directed energy technology as concepts have evolved. The new PEIS will address the MDA's current mission and the development and application of new technologies. The BMDS PEIS will comprehensively evaluate the range of complex elements, programs and components that comprise the BMDS and provide the framework for future environmental analyses as current activities evolve and mature. Also, the new PEIS will support the proposed integrated test schedule and consider future deployment and decommissioning activities. The following sections discuss the purpose of and need for the proposed action, and describe the proposed action and its implementation alternatives, including the no action alternative.

### ***Purpose of the Proposed Action***

The purpose of the proposed action is to incrementally develop and deploy a BMDS, the performance of which can be improved over time, that layers defenses to intercept ballistic missiles of all ranges in all phases of flight.

### ***Need for the Proposed Action***

The proposed action is needed to protect the United States, its deployed forces, friends, and allies from ballistic missile threats.

### ***Proposed Action***

MDA is proposing to develop, test, and deploy, and to plan for related decommissioning activities, for an integrated BMDS using existing infrastructure and capabilities, when feasible, as well as emerging and new technologies, to meet current and evolving threats in support of MDA's mission.

### ***Implementation Alternatives for the Proposed Action***

The proposed action can be implemented in various ways as testing, development, deployment and decommissioning activities are pursued. The proposed action has two alternative implementation options involving the system platforms for the interceptors and other directed energy weapons.

➤ ***Alternative 1 – Land-, Sea-, and Air-based BMDS***

Develop, test, deploy and plan to decommission land-, sea- and air-based platforms for missile interceptors and directed energy missile defense system components, and related architecture and assets.

➤ ***Alternative 2 – Land-, Sea-, Air- and Space-based BMDS***

Develop, test, deploy and plan to decommission land-, sea-, air- and space-based platforms for missile interceptors and directed energy missile defense system components, and related architecture and assets.

➤ ***No Action Alternative***

To not test, develop, deploy or plan for decommissioning activities for an integrated BMDS, but to continue existing test and development of discrete missile defense systems as stand-alone defensive capabilities.